

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
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XMT AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: EGEN, OAS

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ELECTS
NEW CHAIRMAN

1. THE INTER-AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CIES)
ON JUNE 30 ELECTED BOLIVIA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS, FER-
NANDO ORTIZ SANZ, CHAIRMAN OF ITS PERMANENT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (CEPCIES) FOR A YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1. HE
REPLACES ECUADOR'S AMBASSADOR GALO LEORO, WHO COULD NOT
SUCCEED HIMSELF. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ SANZ WAS THE ONLY
NOMINEE.

2. THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR WILL BE THE FOURTH CHAIRMAN
OF CEPCIES SINCE THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON THE
ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS (CIAP), WHICH HAD ACTED IN PLACE OF
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CEPCIES, WAS ABOLISHED IN 1974. SINCE THEN CIES AND CEP-
CIES HAVE DECLINED IN IMPORTANCE WITHOUT THE IMPETUS OF
THE ALLIANCE AND AS REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONCERNS HAVE TENDED
TO BE SUBSUMED IN GLOBAL FORUMS. OTHER MEMBERS SEEM TO
ATTACH LESS IMPORTANCE TO CIES AND ITS PERMANENT EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (SEE STATE 88550). LAST YEAR AND AGAIN THIS
YEAR THE U.S. PROPOSED DURING THE ANNUAL OAS GENERAL AS-

SEMBLY THAT CIES ITSELF BE ABOLISHED. IN THESE CIRCUM-
STANCES THE POSITION OF CEPCHIES CHAIRMAN IS NOT MUCH OF A

PLUM, AND IT WAS NOT SURE FOR A WHILE THAT THERE BE ANY
CANDIDATES.

3. NEVERTHELESS WE EXPECT AMBASSADOR ORTIZ SANZ TO DO
HIS BEST TO PRODUCE RESULTS IN CEPCHIES. HE IS ALSO
CHAIRMAN OF THE OAS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSNATIONAL ENTER-
PRISES, AND TRIED VALIANTLY (THOUGH UNSUCCESSFULLY)
DURING THE PAST YEAR TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THAT FORUM DES-
PITE THE FACT THAT THE U.S. AND SEVERAL LATIN MEMBERS
WERE UNWILLING TO UTILIZE THE SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE EX-
PENSE OF THE UN EXERCISE ON TNE'S. SIMILARLY DURING
HIS THREE MONTH STINT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT COUN-
CIL LAST FALL HE TACKLED THE AGENDA ENERGETICALLY (AND
WITH SOME SUCCESS) IN AN EFFORT TO ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE DURING HIS TENURE. HE IS QUITE FRIENDLY TOWARD
THE U.S. AND EXPERIENCED IN THE OAS WHERE HE IS KNOWN
AS AN EXPERT ON MATTERS OF STYLE. HE IS NOT AN ECONOMIST
OR PARTICULARLY WELL INFORMED ON POLITICAL ECONOMIC AF-
FAIRS. WE DO NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM HIM, BUT FROM OUR
POINT OF VIEW WE COULD HAVE DONE WORSE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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